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EXTRAORDINARY

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4th Vaisakha, 1945 (S. E.)

PART-III

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan,
Ashoka Road,
New Delhi-110001
Dated the 21st April, 2023
1st Vaisakha, 1945 (Saka)

NOTIFICATION

No.576/EXIT/2023/SDR/Vol.I. - Whereas, the schedules for the **General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Karnataka** has been announced by the Commission *vide* Press Note No.ECI/PN/24/2023, dated 29th March, 2023 and **Bye Elections to the 04-Jalandhar (SC) Parliamentary Constituency in Punjab, 07-Jharsuguda Assembly Constituency of Odisha, 395-Chhanbey (SC) & 34-Suar Assembly Constituencies of Uttar Pradesh and 23-Sohiong (ST) Assembly Constituency of Meghalaya** have been announced by the Press Note No.ECI/PN/25/2023, dated 29th March, 2023.

2. Whereas, Section 126A of The Representation of the People Act, 1951 (in short R.P. Act, 1951) specifies that "(1) No person shall conduct any exit poll and publish or publicise by means of the print or electronic media or disseminate in any other manner, whatsoever, the result of any exit poll during such period, as may be notified by the Election Commission in this regard.

(2) For the purposes of sub-section (1), the Election Commission shall, by a general order, notify the date and time having due regard to the following, namely: —

(a) in case of a general election, the period may commence from the beginning of the hours fixed for poll on the first day of poll and continue till half an hour after closing of the poll in all the States and Union territories;

(b) In case of a bye-election or a number of bye-elections held together, the period may commence from the beginning of the hours fixed for poll on and from the first day of poll and continue till half an hour after closing of the poll;

Provided that in case of a number of bye-elections held together on different days, the period may commence from the beginning of the hours fixed for poll on the first day of poll and continue till half an hour after closing of the last poll.

(3) Any person who contravenes the provisions of this section shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine or with both."

3. Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers under Sub-Section (1) of Section 126A of the R.P. Act, 1951, the Election Commission, having regard to the provisions of Sub-Section (2) of the said Section, hereby notifies the period between **7:00 A.M.** and **6:30 P.M.** on **10th May, 2023 (Wednesday)**, as the period during which conducting and publishing or publicizing exit poll by means of the print or electronic media or dissemination in any other manner whatsoever, the result of any exit poll in connection with the aforesaid General Election and bye elections, shall be prohibited.
4. It is further clarified that under Section 126(1)(b) of the R.P. Act, 1951, displaying any election matter including results of any opinion poll or any other poll survey, in any electronic media, would be prohibited during the period of 48 hours ending with the hours fixed for the conclusion of the poll in connection with the aforesaid General and bye elections.

By order,

(S. B. JOSHI)

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

A. S. MUKHIM,
Joint Chief Electoral Officer,
Meghalaya.